

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A ski for a snow vehicle comprising a longitudinally extending primary section, said longitudinally extending primary section comprising a first generally horizontal surface, a forward portion of said first generally horizontal surface curling upward, a keel section extending downward along at least a portion of said primary section, and at least one generally vertical section extending upward along at least a portion of said primary section, said generally vertical section comprising a generally vertical surface that contacts the snow in use and that is connected to said first generally horizontal surface, the vertical surface including an aperture through which can extend a support member that couples the ski with a snow vehicle.

2. (Original) The ski as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said generally vertical surface extends generally normal to said first generally horizontal surface.

3. (Original) The ski as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said generally vertical surface extends at an angle less than about 120 degrees relative to said first generally horizontal surface.

4. (Original) The ski as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising a generally horizontal section that extends outward from said generally vertical section, said horizontal section comprising a second generally horizontal surface that extends outward from a top end of said generally vertical surface, said second generally horizontal surface extending opposite to said first generally surface relative to said generally vertical surface.

5. (Original) The ski as set forth in Claim 4, wherein a center portion of said second generally horizontal surface in the longitudinal direction curls upward relative to a center portion of said first generally horizontal surface in the longitudinal direction.

6. (Original) The ski as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said second generally horizontal section comprises a downwardly extending lip that extends downward substantially from an outer end of said generally horizontal section.

7. (Original) The ski as set forth in Claim 6, wherein said downwardly extending lip extends along a majority of said generally horizontal section.

8. (Original) The ski as set forth in Claim 4, wherein either a lateral dimension of a forward portion of said first generally horizontal surface is larger than another lateral dimension of a more rearward portion of said first generally horizontal surface or a lateral dimension of a forward portion of said second generally horizontal surface is larger than a lateral dimension of a more rearward portion of said second generally horizontal surface.

9. (Original) The ski as set forth in Claim 1, wherein a pair of said generally vertical sections is disposed opposite to each other with said primary section positioned generally between said generally vertical sections.

10. (Original) The ski as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said primary section comprises a downwardly extending projected portion, said downwardly extending projected portion being connected to an outer lateral portion of said primary section.

11. (Currently Amended) A snow vehicle comprising a body, a frame assembly supporting said body, a ski being coupled with a steering mechanism that includes a support shaft and that is mounted to said frame assembly, said ski being steerable relative to said body, said ski comprising a longitudinally extending primary section, said primary section comprising a generally horizontally extending first surface, at least one generally vertical section extending upward from said primary section, said generally vertical section comprising a generally vertically extending second surface, and said second surface extending upwardly from an outer lateral portion of said first surface, said

second surface comprising an aperture through which the support shaft can extend, said second surface contacting the snow in use.

12. (Currently Amended) The snow vehicle as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising ~~a steering mechanism~~, a pair of said at least one generally vertical sections being disposed on opposing outer lateral portions of said first surface, each of said pair of generally vertical sections comprising a mounting portion including an aperture, said ~~steering mechanism comprising a support shaft extending through said aperture that is connected to said mounting portions such that said ski is connected to said steering mechanism at said mounting portions.~~

13. (Original) The snow vehicle as set forth in Claim 12, wherein at least one tip portion of said support shaft projects laterally outward beyond a corresponding one of said pair of generally vertical sections, and said corresponding one of said pair of generally vertical sections comprising a protrusion that is disposed proximate said mounting portion and forward of said at least one tip portion.

14. (Original) The snow vehicle as set forth in Claim 13, wherein said one of the vertical sections comprises a second protrusion that is disposed proximate said mounting portion and rearward of said at least one tip portion.

15. (Currently Amended) A ski for a snow vehicle, the ski comprising a generally longitudinally extending primary section, said primary section comprising a generally horizontally extending lower surface, a keel section extending downward from said lower surface, a first generally vertically extending side surface for contacting the snow extending upward from said lower surface and a second generally vertically extending side surface for contacting the snow extending upward from said lower surface, said lower surface being generally interposed between said first and second generally vertical surfaces, at least one of said first and second vertically extending side surfaces comprising a mounting portion to which can be coupled a support member that is coupled with a steering

mechanism, the at least one vertically extending side surface including a projection located forward of said support member for protecting said support member, a first generally horizontal upper surface extending laterally outward from said first generally vertical surface and a second generally horizontal upper surface extending laterally outward from said second generally vertical surface, and said first and second upper surface being disposed at an elevation higher than said bottom surface.

16. (Original) The ski of Claim 15 further comprising a first lip extending downward from said first upper surface and a second lip extending downward from said second upper surface, said first and second upper surfaces being interposed between said first and second lips.

17. (Original) The ski of Claim 15, wherein at least one of said first and second generally vertical surfaces is substantially normal to said bottom surface.

18. (Original) The ski of Claim 15, wherein said first upper surface is substantially normal to said first generally vertical surface.

19. (New) The ski of Claim 15, wherein at least one of the first and second generally vertically extending side surfaces comprise an aperture located rearward of the projection through which the support member can extend.

20. (New) The ski of Claim 15, wherein the first generally horizontal upper surface and the second generally horizontal upper surface are disposed symmetrically about a central longitudinal plane of the ski.

21. (New) The snow vehicle of Claim 11, wherein the ski is symmetrical about a central longitudinal plane thereof.

22. (New) The ski of Claim 4, wherein the aperture is located at an elevation below the second generally horizontal surface.

Appl. No. : **10/772,779**
Filed : **February 5, 2004**

23. (New) The ski of Claim 1, wherein the longitudinally extending primary section is disposed symmetrically about a central longitudinal plane of the ski.

24. (New) The ski of Claim 1, wherein a corresponding one of said pair of generally vertical sections comprises a protrusion that is disposed forward of said aperture to protect a tip portion of said support member projects laterally outward beyond a corresponding one of said pair of generally vertical sections.

25. (New) The ski of Claim 1, wherein the vertical surface is an outer surface of the ski.

26. (New) The ski of Claim 25, wherein when the ski is coupled with a snow vehicle, a vertical central longitudinal plane of the ski is disposed between the vertical surface and a vertical central longitudinal plane of the snow vehicle.

27. (New) The ski of Claim 1, wherein the aperture is located at an elevation below a top surface of the ski.